

DRAFT Design Standards for NHS Projects

Standards for the design and construction of all projects on the NHS, including the Interstate system, are applicable to any proposed improvement regardless of the funding source (Federal, State, local or private). The standards are for the National Highway System, rather than for Federal-aid projects on that system. Deviations from the standards must have approved design exceptions. Section 109(c) of Title 23, United States Code (U.S.C.), provides that design and construction standards for new construction and reconstruction on the National Highway System (NHS), and for resurfacing, restoring, and rehabilitating multi-lane full access highways on the NHS, shall be those approved by the Secretary in cooperation with the State highway departments. In a similar manner, 23 U.S.C. 109(b) provides standards for the Interstate system.

In accordance with 23 U.S.C. 109(c), current AASHTO standards and policies as incorporated in 23 CFR 625 are applicable to new construction and reconstruction. In addition to the Interstate system, the NHS consists of other principal arterials, including non-Interstate freeways. Therefore, those parts of the AASHTO Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets (Green Book) applicable to highways classified as principal arterials, including non-Interstate freeways, must be used. Generally, the criteria in the Green Book functional chapters on local roads and streets and on collectors are not applicable to projects on the NHS. However, if highway segments functionally classified less than principal arterials are incorporated in the NHS because they connect to intermodal facilities or serve defense needs, the standards used may be those appropriate for the functional classification, including military requirements, of the segment taking into account the type of traffic using the segment.

All 3R projects, other than on the Interstate System or other full access controlled highways, may be constructed in accordance with FHWA-approved AASHTO standards for new and reconstruction projects or in accordance with FHWA-approved individual State standards developed pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 109(c) and 23 CFR 625.

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NHS Project Criteria*

Project Type	Standard
New Construction Reconstruction 3R Multi Lane Full Access Control	Meet or exceed AASHTO standards in accordance with Title 23 USC section 109(b) and 109(c)
Other 3R Projects	Minimum will be section 430 of the WSDOT Design Manual

* The WSDOT Design Manual will be the standard for any projects that are on state routes.
